

- B¹
Cancel
- b) creating a circular intracorneal channel originating at said incision;
 - c) widening said circular intracorneal channel to create a widened channel; and
 - d) introducing an intracorneal implant into said widened channel through said incision.
-

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step b)] creating a circular intracorneal channel comprises inserting a dissector blade through said incision and rotating the dissector blade through a circular path to form said circular intracorneal channel.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step b)] creating a circular intracorneal channel comprises [the substeps of] inserting a clockwise dissector blade through said incision and rotating the clockwise dissector blade clockwise to form a clockwise channel and inserting a counterclockwise dissector blade through said incision and rotating the counterclockwise dissector blade counterclockwise to form a counterclockwise channel.

B²

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises inserting a channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the channel-widening dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises [the substeps of] inserting a clockwise channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the clockwise channel-widening dissector blade clockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a counterclockwise channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the counterclockwise channel-widening dissector blade counterclockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel.

B2
Cancel

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises inserting a pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the pocket-forming dissector blade ~~having a side leg through said incision and rotating the pocket-forming dissector blade~~ through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel into an intracorneal pocket.

Sub
C1

11. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said implant has a central [aperture] aperture.

B3

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises [the substeps of] inserting a clockwise pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the clockwise pocket-forming dissector blade clockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a counterclockwise pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the counterclockwise pocket-forming dissector blade counterclockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel, thereby forming an intracorneal pocket.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises [the substeps of] inserting a channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the channel-widening dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a pocket-forming dissector blade having a longer side leg through said incision and rotating the pocket-forming dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel into an intracorneal pocket.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises inserting a dissector blade through said incision and dissecting a region of said cornea bounded by said circular intracorneal channel to create an intracorneal pocket.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step d)] introducing the implant into said channel comprises positioning said intracorneal implant within said intracorneal cavity at a location remote from said incision.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step d)] introducing the implant into said channel comprises introducing said intracorneal implant through said incision in a folded condition.

B3
Cancel
17. (Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising [the step of]
e) unfolding said intracorneal implant within said intracorneal cavity.

B4
20. (Amended) A method of preparing an intracorneal pocket comprising [the steps of]:
a) cutting a small incision in the anterior surface of the cornea of an eye;
b) creating a circular intracorneal channel originating at said incision;
c) widening said circular intracorneal channel to create a widened channel; and
d) dissecting radially inward from said widened channel until said pocket is formed.

B5
21. (Amended) A method of inserting an intracorneal continuous ring implant in the cornea of an eye comprising [the steps of]:

a) creating a small incision in said cornea;
b) forming an open pocket within said cornea through said incision; and
c) inserting a continuous ring implant into said open pocket through said incision,
said continuous ring implant being inserted in a stretched state.

B6
23. (Amended) The method of claim [21] 24, wherein said continuous ring implant is folded prior to insertion.